

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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R 081155Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3337

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PASS AGRICULTURE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, PO

SUBJ: AGRARIAN REFORM MEASURES ANNOUNCED

REF: LISBON 2189 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED JULY 5 SEVERAL AGRARIAN REFORM MEASURES. MAJOR POINTS ARE (1) REGARDLESS OF PRODUCTIVITY, 700 HECTARES MAXIMUM HOLDINGS ALLOWED AND (2) THAT LAND WITHIN GOVERNMENT-FINANCED IRRIGATION SCHEMES WILL BE NATIONALIZED. FULL DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, IN SPEECH JULY 6, STATED "... DEFINITE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND NEXT YEAR." END SUMMARY

2. MAJOR POINTS COVERED IN ANNOUNCEMENT INCLUDE:

A. EXPROPRIATION OF FARM LAND WILL BE THRU MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ON RECOMMENDATION OF INSTITUTE OF AGRARIAN REFORM (IRA), REGIONAL AGRARIAN REFORM COUNCILS OR LOCAL ASSEMBLIES.

B. DETERMINATION OF PRODUCTIVITY OF LAND WILL BE BY A POINT SYSTEM; BUT REGARDLESS OF POINTS 700 HECTARES MAXIMUM ALLOWED.

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C. FARM LAND OWNED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS OR

COMPANIES ARE SUBJECT TO SAME CONDITIONS.

D. LAND NOT CULTIVATED OR NOT AT REQUIRED MAXIMUM LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT SUBJECT TO EXPROPRIATION.

E. FARM LAND LOCATED WITHIN OR BENEFITING FROM GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION SCHEMES WILL BE NATIONALIZED IF UNITS EXCEED A CERTAIN SIZE (UNSPECIFIED IN ANNOUNCEMENT).

3. FOLLOWING BILLS PERTAINING TO AGRARIAN REFORM ALSO APPROVED:

A. SETTING CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING AGRICULTURAL CREDIT TO NEW COOPERATIVE UNITS OR OTHER TYPE GROUPS OF SMALL FARMERS EMERGING AS RESULT OF AGRARIAN REFORM.

B. ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED RURAL WORKERS AND FARMERS IN FORMING ASSOCIATIONS.

C. GAME RESERVE REGULATIONS REVAMPED.

D. RURAL WORKER GRANTED RIGHT OF PAID VACATIONS.

4. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SPEAKING BEFORE NEWLY ORGANIZED COOPERATIVE IN ALENTEJO JULY 6 WAS QUOTED AS STATING: QUOTE IN ONE MILLION ODD HECTARES COVERED BY AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM EVERYTHING HAS TO BE STUDIED BRIEFLY AND POINTEDLY. BUT THE SMALL FARMERS HAVE TO BE THE FIRST BENEFICIARIES EVEN BEFORE THE LAND BEGINS TO BE DEFINITELY DISTRIBUTED NEXT YEAR. THE MINISTRY IS MOSTLY CONCERNED WITH ITS CAPACITY TO HELP THOSE WHO NEED ASSISTANCE. THE TRUTH IS THAT OF THE 120,000 HECTARES OCCUPIED, OVER 80 PERCENT ARE BEING HELPED BY THE MINISTRY. UNQUOTE.

5. COMMENT: ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW WHEN DETAILS AVAILABLE. IN MEETING WITH AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE JULY 6 SEVERAL LARGE FARMERS EXPRESSED FURTHER DISCOURAGEMENT IN ATTEMPTING TO FARM IN FACE OF UNCERTAINTY OF PRESENT SITUATION. AMONG PROBLEMS ARE: LACK OF DEFINITE INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTING AGRARIAN REFORM MEASURES; SEEMING GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT OF FARM OCCUPATIONS; GENERAL CREDIT SITUATION, AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTY OF RURAL WAGES. TO THE OWNERS IT SEEMS AS IF THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THEM TO LEAVE PORTUGAL, ABANDON THEIR FARMS AND INVESTMENTS, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE OVER STRAIGHT AWAY WITHOUT FUSS OR BOTHER. OKUN

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, LAND NATIONALIZATION, FARMS, AGRICULTURAL LAND  
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**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1975  
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**To:** STATE  
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